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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR.

31 July 1963

SUBJECT

1. Proposed return of the HANSA and HAMBURG
2. Notes on Harbor Activities

NO. OF PAGES

2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

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1. The East German Government has proposed to the Soviet Control Commission that the two former German steamers "HANSA" and "HAMBURG", which had been taken by the Russians as reparations, be returned to the Germans for use as merchant ships. These vessels had been sunk outside Sassnitz harbor during the last days of the war and have since been raised. An acceptance of the proposal by the SCC is taken for granted and the captains and crews for the vessels have already been hired.
2. The former German artillery training ship, "MARS", after having been re-built, is now sailing under the Soviet flag as a tropical research vessel. It has been renamed "VITAS".
3. Freight trains loaded with heavy Russian tanks were derailed recently near Guestrow as a result of breaks in the rails. The defective rails were said to have been made a short time previously in the steel and rolling mill in Riesa, Saxony.
4. A direct 350-kilometer railway line between Rostock and Halle is being built on order of the Soviets in order to overcome urgent troop and supply problems. Overhead passes similar to those on the Autobahns are to be erected at crossings.
5. Four large work sheds, formerly in Peckow, were torn down there and re-built in the shipyard area in Wismar. Fish luggers 30 meters long and of 450 tons are mass-produced in Wismar. Trawlers 56 meters long and of 1050 tons are regularly built in Stralsund and at the Neptun Shipyard in Rostock. These ships are outfitted in Rostock and are regularly collected in groups and sent off at certain intervals, generally to East Asia.
6. The well known navigation school in Wustrow, east of Warnemuende, is in regular operation.
7. Rorix, on the Wustrow Peninsula on the Bay of Wismar, has been re-established as an anti-aircraft school by the Soviets. It has been extensively enlarged. The local population has been evacuated completely and the entire area sealed off.

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[REDACTED] COMMENT:

[REDACTED] reports that a former German "supply ship" also called the "HANSKA", which was sunk, raised by the Russians, rebuilt, and renamed the "POTYEDA", is now being used by the Soviets in the western and middle part of the Baltic Sea as a so-called "ship of State".

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